

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
TOPIC	Military Information from Brandenburg		25X1
EVALUATION	25X1	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT			25X1
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	6 February 1953
REFERENCES	25X1		
PAGES	4	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			

1. From 3 to 10 January 1953, the Generalfeldzeugmeister Kaserne in Brandenburg was occupied to capacity by an estimated 1,800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia. At about 11 a.m. on 5 January, troops were engaged in drill and maintaining of motor vehicles. At about 10 a.m. on 6 January, prime movers towing trailers and two 122-mm field howitzers left the installation toward Goerden. On 8 January, about 50 artillery officers entered the installation at the entrance on Fouque Strasse, coming from the officers' club. Truck and a prime mover towing a 122-mm field howitzer were seen leaving the installation.

2. From 3 to 10 January, the Flak Kaserne was occupied to capacity by an estimated 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia. Between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. on 3 January, drill at squad level was observed in the installation. About 50 trucks were in front of the garages. At about 10 a.m. on 5 January, trucks towing 57-mm AT guns, and armored personnel carrier towing a 100-mm AT gun were seen leaving the installation. Drill and instruction on 160-mm mortars was observed in the barracks yard. From 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on 6 January, about 200 troops were lined up in front of a barracks building. About 120 soldiers marched to Fouque Strasse. Instruction on 100-mm AT guns and 160-mm mortars was given in the barracks yard. Between 10 a.m. and noon on 9 January, three platoons each consisting of 40 to 50 soldiers were drilling with rifles and two other groups practiced with machine guns.

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3. From 3 to 10 January, the Infanterie Kaserne was occupied by an estimated 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport and signal insignia. At about 10 a.m. on 3 January, two platoons of 40 to 50 soldiers each were seen drilling and about 35 soldiers engaged in fatigue duty. At about 11 a.m. on 5 January, an officer and 14 soldiers with telephone equipment entered the installation. A gun that was covered was in the barracks yard. Between 10 a.m. and noon on 8 January, two platoons of 40 to 50 soldiers each who carried signal equipment and two other groups armed with rifles and carrying entrenching tools marched toward Goerden. At about 10 a.m. and noon on 9 January, instruction was given on three guns of an undetermined type in the barracks installation. About 80 soldiers armed with rifles marched toward Goerden, apparently for field training.

4. From 3 to 10 January, the Pionier Kaserne was occupied by about 2,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery, motor transport and signal insignia. A few air force soldiers were also observed. Between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. on 4 January, marksmanship training with carbines was held. About 16 trucks were being maintained in front of the garages. At about 10 a.m. on 6 January, about 120 soldiers had fallen in in front of a barracks building. They subsequently left for the training area north of the installation. Six T-34/85 tanks were seen entering the installation, coming from Hohenstuecken. At about 4 p.m., T-34/85 tanks Nos 118, 122 and 128 were seen en route from Hohenstuecken to the barracks installation. On 7 January, about 60 soldiers armed with rifles marched toward the area northwest of the installation for field training. Four T-34/85 tanks, including Nos 14 and 223, were seen leaving the installation. Motor vehicles were seen en route to the installation.

5. From 25 December to 5 January 1953, the Generalfeldzeugmeister Kaserne was occupied to capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The heavy guns, as previously observed, were in the sheds. On 30 December, three guns, probably 122-mm howitzers, were in front of shed. At about 9 a.m., 26 soldiers marched to the Infanterie Kaserne. After 9:30 a.m., 6 officers and 93 soldiers, apparently recruits, were training with rifles and 5 officers and 90 soldiers trained without rifles. At about 11 a.m., 17 soldiers with practice targets marched toward the Walzberg (hill). On 31 December, 9 officers and 82 soldiers armed with rifles marched toward Hohenstuecken; they returned at about 2 p.m. Between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on 2 January, officers and EM left the installation in small details and returned after some hours. They included 2 officers and 12 EM with signal equipment; 2 officers and 20 EM with map pouches; 1 officer and 12 EM with various boxes; 1 officer and 5 EM with range finders and spades; 1 officer and 20 unarmed EM; 2 officers and 30 EM with gas masks and small red flags. Three officers and 27 troops practiced firing with rifles in the barracks yard. At 10 a.m. on 5 January, 18 officers and about 450 troops engaged in drill with rifles in the barracks yard. Seventeen soldiers went to the Infanterie Kaserne. At 12:20 p.m., trucks occupied by 1 officer and 30 EM left the installation toward Flauer Strasse. After about 30 minutes, the truck returned, picked up 18 officers and left in the same direction. Motor vehicles seen en route to the installation.

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6. Prior to 12 January, the Flak Kaserne was occupied to capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. On 31 December, two trucks towing 76.2-mm AT guns were seen leaving the installation toward Hohenstuecken. Another four 76.2-mm AT guns were in the barracks yard. On several days, up to 150 soldiers were seen drilling.
7. Prior to 12 January, the Infanterie Kaserne was heavily occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Intensive training activity was observed. Mortars of an undetermined caliber were seen in the installation.
8. From 2 to 8 January, the Flak Kaserne was occupied to capacity. At about 11 a.m. on 2 January, 30 soldiers engaged in physical training, and 40 in drill, and four trucks towing 57-mm AT guns were seen at driving practice. In the morning of 3 January, five trucks towing 4 x 57-mm AT guns were seen at driving practice and at about 1 p.m., 50 to 60 soldiers practiced with gas masks on. At 9:45 a.m. on 5 January, 30 soldiers were lined up in front of an undetermined number of trucks towing AT guns. An officer gave a signal with a flag, whereupon the soldiers got into the vehicles and practiced driving directed by flag signals. Thirteen officers supervised the practice. An officer and 12 EF were seen at instruction on two 57-mm AT guns. Aiming practice on 4 x 76.2-mm field guns was performed at the northern border of the drill ground, while four groups each of 16 soldiers drilled with rifles. On 8 January, aiming practice was being performed on 4 x 57-mm AT guns and 5 x 76.2-mm field guns.
9. From 2 to 8 January, the Infanterie Kaserne was occupied to capacity. At about 11 a.m. on 6 January, 5 to 6 soldiers each were being trained on an undetermined number of factory-new 120-mm mortars. A 37-mm AA gun was hauled to the drill ground outside of the installation by eight soldiers, who subsequently received instruction. Three other AA guns, probably 37-mm guns, were also emplaced at the drill ground. No crews were seen with these guns. At about noon on 8 January, aiming practice and gun displacement of eight mortars, presumably 120-mm mortars, were observed. Four mortars were being moved by 5 to 6 soldiers each by flag signals of an officer. An AA gun, probably of 37-mm caliber, was seen in the installation.

Comment. The known occupation of the barracks installations in Brandenburg can be confirmed until early January 1953.

The occupation by elements of the 20th Army AT Arty Brig (US) of the Infanterie Kaserne was repeatedly mentioned. The present information would indicate that mostly noncombat units of the brigade are quartered there, along with mortar units the presence of which in the Infanterie Kaserne was repeatedly vaguely indicated. Although this

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type of brigade has not been equipped with mortars, the observations of the 2d Light Arty Brig (US) in Doeberitz leaves open the possibility that these brigades may recently have been equipped with mortars to meet the requirements of modern warfare. [redacted] In this connection it is of a secondary importance whether these mortars are to serve increased combat efficiency or better employment possibilities and/or to provide immediate protection against infantry attacks.

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